

# **City CONNECTION**

## **MORGAN HILL NEWS & ACTIVITIES**

A Publication of The City of Morgan Hill

August 2006

**Working to get the Centennial Recreation Center ready for the Grand Opening (see back cover)**



**New City Budget Adopted . . page 4**  
**City Elections This Fall . . . page 6**  
**Garage Sale Days . . . . . page 7**



[WWW.MORGANHILL.CA.GOV](http://WWW.MORGANHILL.CA.GOV)

## MORGAN HILL COMMUNITY GUIDE

### EVENTS CALENDAR

#### ART EXHIBITS COMING TO THE CCC THIS FALL

##### Arts Connect

An exhibit by the students attending Santa Clara County Schools starts on September 11 and runs through October 27. Come out and support these talented young artists at a special reception held in their honor on Friday, September 30, from 6:30-8pm.

##### Centennial Art Exhibit

This exhibit will start on November 6 and runs through December 22, 2006. Date of artist reception to be announced.

#### COMING TO THE COMMUNITY PLAYHOUSE

17090 Monterey Road, Downtown Morgan Hill

##### South Valley Civic Theater Presents

"1776" running from September 15th through October 6th and  
"Treasure Island" running from October 17th through December 9th.  
Tickets available at the Community Center.  
For additional information call 842-SHOW or visit [www.svct.org](http://www.svct.org).

##### Poppy Jasper Film Festival

November 10, 11 and 12

Friday 1:00 p.m. - Film screenings  
7:00 p.m. - Opening Night  
(includes the Juror's Selection film screenings)  
Saturday 2:00 p.m. - Women in Film panel discussion  
7:00 p.m. - Keynote Speaker Address  
Sunday 1:00 p.m. - Film screenings  
4:00 p.m. - Awards Ceremony

For additional information contact Kim Bush at 590-7662 or  
[www.poppyjasperfilmfest.org](http://www.poppyjasperfilmfest.org). For tickets visit [info@poppyjasper.org](mailto:info@poppyjasper.org).

##### Thursdays are Comedy Nights at the Playhouse

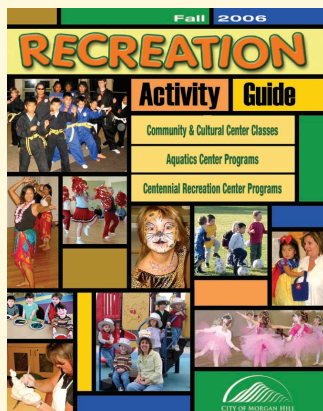
August 31 - Comedy Night with Ken Koskella, Uncle Howard, and Chris Valenti ([www.chrisvalentimusic.com](http://www.chrisvalentimusic.com))  
Last Thursday of every month. Tickets at the door - \$10  
Doors open at 7:30 P.M. - shows begin at 8 P.M.  
(not recommended for children under 18)  
For information call Karen Lengsfeld at 782-0008.

## Important Announcement

The City of Morgan Hill Recreation Guide will no longer be included in the City Connection Newsletter effective

August 2006. There will be a separate publication titled Recreation Activity Guide arriving in the mail in August that will contain all of the classes and programs available at the three city recreation facilities:

Community & Cultural Center, Aquatics Center and the new Centennial Recreation Center. Please watch for this important recreation and leisure time guide to keep you active, informed and fit.



#### CITY ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor <b>Dennis Kennedy</b>	779-7259
Mayor Pro Tempore <b>Mark Grzan</b>	779-7259
Councilmember <b>Larry Carr</b>	779-7259
Councilmember <b>Greg Sellers</b>	779-7259
Councilmember <b>Steve Tate</b>	779-7259
City Clerk <b>Irma Torrez</b>	779-7259
City Treasurer <b>Michael Roorda</b>	778-3653

#### CITY EXECUTIVE STAFF

City Manager <b>J. Edward Tewes</b>
City Attorney <b>Janet Kern</b>
Assistant to the City Manager <b>Vacant</b>
Business Assistance/Housing Services Director <b>Garrett Toy</b>
Community Development Director <b>Kathy Molloy Previsich</b>
Council Services and Records Manager <b>Irma Torrez</b>
Finance Director <b>Jack Dilles</b>
Human Resources Director <b>Mary Kaye Fisher</b>
Police Chief <b>Bruce Cumming</b>
Public Works Director <b>Jim Ashcraft</b>
Recreation and Community Services Director <b>Steve Rymer</b>

#### CONTACTING YOUR CITY

Hours: Monday - Friday, 8AM to 5PM

Address: City Hall, 17555 Peak Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA 95037.

Animal Control	776-7300
Aquatics Center	782-2134
Business Assistance and Housing Services	776-7373
City Clerk	779-7259
City Manager	779-7271
Community and Cultural Center	782-0008
Emergency Services/Disaster Preparedness	776-7310
Environmental Programs	779-7247
Finance	779-7237
Fire Department (County Fire)	378-4010
Job Hotline	779-7276
Planning: Land Use/Zoning	779-7247
Police Administration	776-7315
Public Works	776-7337
Recreation and Community Services	782-0008
Water	779-7221
Volunteer Programs	782-0008
City Hall Fax Number	779-3117

City Website: [www.morganhill.ca.gov](http://www.morganhill.ca.gov)

#### CONTACT THE EDITOR

Questions or comments about City Connection are welcome. Contact editor Anthony Eulo at 779-7247 or [anthony.eulo@morganhill.ca.gov](mailto:anthony.eulo@morganhill.ca.gov). City Connection is published by The City of Morgan Hill.

Cover photography by Chu Thai.



# IT'S 6 PM...

## Do you know where your water meter is?

As you landscape your yard, you may come across an object in the ground that wasn't in the plan! The cement lid of a water meter box in your lawn may be unsightly, but it is a necessary fixture that must be maintained by the City to ensure water service to your home. There are times when you need the water meter shut off and every minute counts.



*Believe it or not, there's a water meter under here. This meter has been dramatically overgrown and covered by vegetation. In the case of an emergency, it could take many precious minutes just to find the meter on this property - not to mention accessing it to turn off the water.*

The most critical time a water meter needs to be located is when you, the resident, have an internal plumbing problem that is causing damage to your property. Planters or landscape features that hide the water meter can seriously compromise our ability to find your meter in a timely manner. Overgrown shrubs and trees are also obstacles to maintenance personnel during an emergency water meter shut-off. These items must be cleared to allow for clear and unobstructed access to the water meter box.

If you receive a "Notice of Access Restriction", from the City, please act promptly to remedy the situation. Working with the City's maintenance crews will benefit all residents.



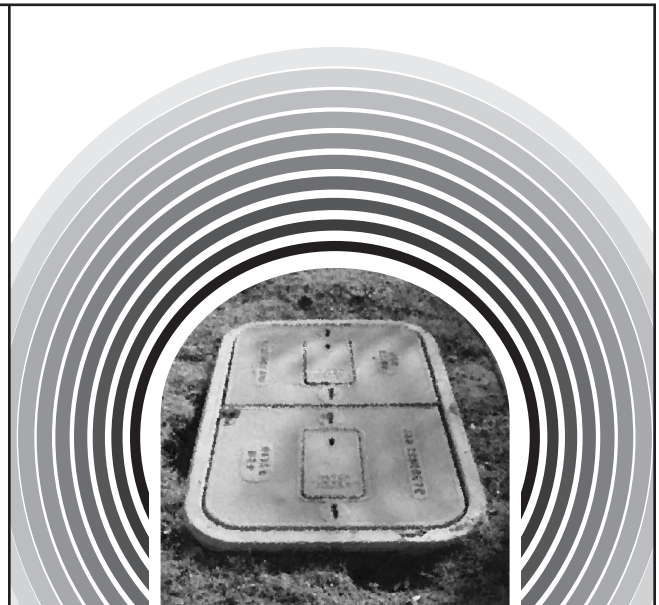
*These meters are covered by mulch and growing plants. A little cleanup work here is all that is needed to correct the problem.*

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## New Technologies Increase Efficiency and Productivity

The City is rapidly introducing new water meters throughout the community. Today, approximately 50% of the City's water meters have incorporated the latest radio read water meter technology. A radio equipped water meter allows City personnel to read water meters without walking up and opening the water meter box. What once took two people weeks of work per month, can now be accomplished in hours by one person. The remainder of the old "touch read" meters, which are read with a magnetic wand, will be replaced during the next five years.

In addition to these new meters, the City continues to embrace new technologies, as they become available, to help us provide excellent utility services with minimal costs. We continue to expand our capabilities to remotely monitor and control our reservoirs, pumps, and wells in order to better manage the water supply system. The net result is more reliable supplies, lower energy costs, and reduced staffing costs as our supply system continues to expand to meet the community's needs.



# City Budget Adopted in June

On June 21, the City Council and Redevelopment Agency Board adopted the Fiscal Year 2006/07 Operating and Capital Project Budgets. Prior to this passage, a workshop was held on May 19, 2006, and a Public Hearing was conducted on June 7 to give the public a chance to express their comments. The total adopted budget for FY 2006/07 is \$119,810,421.

This year's budget is a "status quo" budget that represents no real increases in essential public services. While the budget is nearly \$12 million more than the prior year's budget, this increase is largely due to one-time expenditures on capital projects, like the construction of the new library, and does not add substantially to the City's ongoing operational costs. The one exception to this trend is the opening of the new Centennial Recreation Center. The Center, which is scheduled to open in October, has a partial year operating budget of \$1.7 million. Revenues from the Center, which will be operated in cooperation with the YMCA, are expected to cover its long term operations and maintenance costs.

This year's budget includes over \$37 million of construction projects throughout the community including:

- Parks and Recreation projects totaling \$5,081,000
- Public Facilities projects totaling \$17,690,000
- Sanitary Sewer projects totaling \$6,451,000
- Storm Drainage projects totaling \$2,930,000
- Streets projects totaling \$2,730,000
- Water projects totaling \$2,205,000

Nearly all of these projects include funding from the City's Redevelopment Agency, the City's water

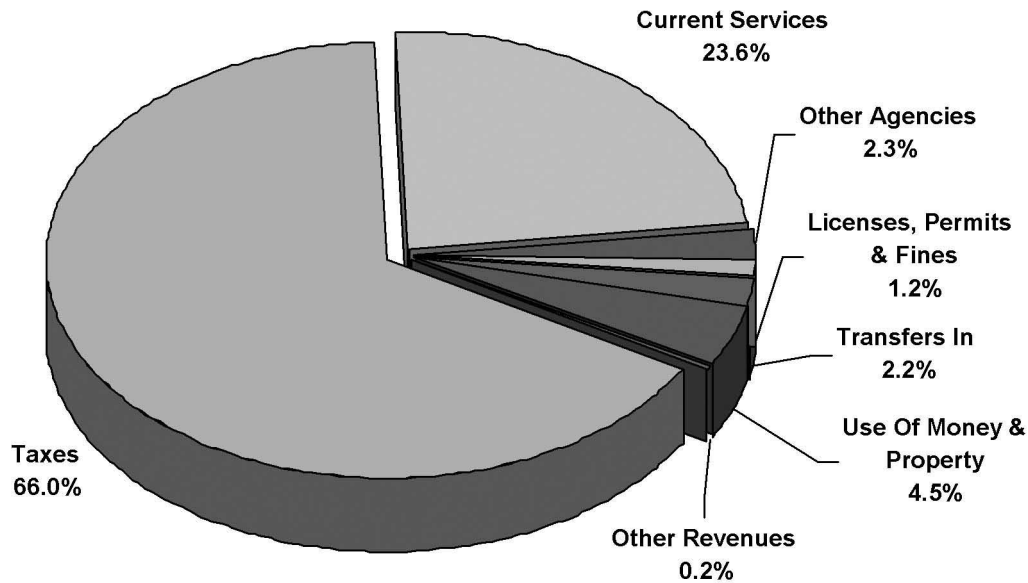
and sewer utility accounts, impact fees paid by developers for new development, or grants. Over \$13 million of this capital budget is dedicated toward the new Morgan Hill Library. Now under construction on the vacant land behind the old Library and City Hall, the new Library will be an important community asset for many years to come. Like the existing Library, it will be operated as a part of the award-winning Santa Clara County Library System.

Earlier this year, the City conducted a process of Community Conversations, or civic dialogue, regarding the current structural budget deficit. Throughout this process, over 330 Morgan Hill residents participated in 2 ½ hour dialogues about the fiscal future of their community. In the conversations, citizens weighed alternative strategies for addressing the City's budget deficit, including cutting services and generating new revenues through various taxes, fees and assessments. They learned about the benefits and real tradeoffs associated with these various choices and worked to identify a set of steps they felt they could support to create the kind of city they wanted for themselves and for their children.

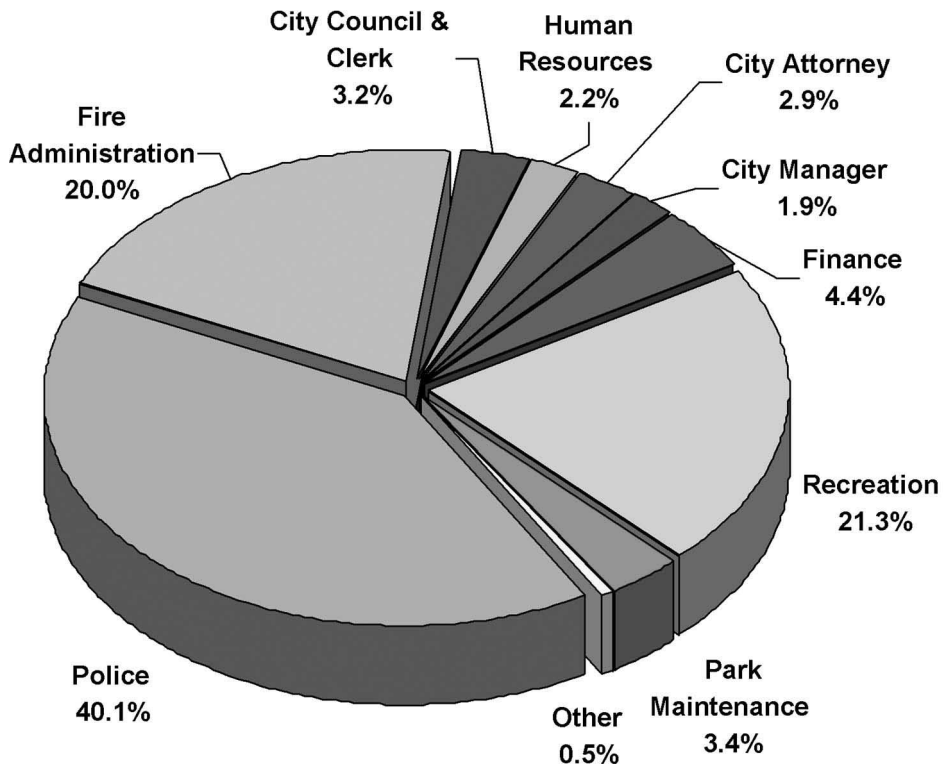
The City Council recognizes that merely keeping staffing levels constant, which the current adopted budget does, will lead to service level reductions as the community grows. Because this is an important, long term issue, the City Council is evaluating ways to continue the Community Conversations with residents about service levels desired by the community and how to pay for them. We encourage you to be involved in future conversations.

A copy of the adopted budget is available for review at City Hall and on the City's website at [www.morganhill.ca.gov](http://www.morganhill.ca.gov).

*The City's General Fund is the main fund in the City that pays for City services like police, fire, parks maintenance, and recreation. The chart below describes the sources of this year's expected General Fund revenues of \$22,116,684*



*General Fund expenditures of \$22,952,679 are expected this year to pay for the City's services. The chart below describes where these expenditures are expected to occur.*





## Municipal Election Set For November 7

The City of Morgan Hill will be holding a Municipal Election on Tuesday, November 7 to elect a Mayor and two Council Members. The Council Members are elected to four-year terms while the Mayor is elected to serve a two-year term.

For citizens who may be interested in seeking one of these elected offices, you must be a resident of the City of Morgan Hill and a registered voter at the time you pull nomination papers.

The nomination filing period for the November 7, 2006 election is July 17 through August 11, 2006. A 5-calendar day filing extension period is scheduled August 12 through August 16, should an incumbent fail to file a Declaration of Candidacy by the August 11 filing deadline. No incumbent(s) may file during the extended filing period.

The City of Morgan Hill contracts election services with the County of Santa Clara County, Registrar of Voters, in order to keep election expenses to a minimum.

For further information, please contact the City Clerk's office at 779-7271.

**MAKE  
YOUR  
Vote  
count**



## Are You Registered to Vote ?

The last day for a citizen to register to vote in the upcoming November 7 election is October 23. Individuals must reregister to vote whenever they move, change their name or change political affiliation. Voter Registration Forms can be picked up at City Hall, 17555 Peak Avenue, or by contacting the City Clerk's Office at 779-7271. Forms are also available at:

- Local post offices, libraries, and county government offices.
- The California Secretary of State provides an on-line form at [www.ss.ca.gov/elections/elections\\_vr.htm](http://www.ss.ca.gov/elections/elections_vr.htm). After completing the form, the Secretary of State will print and mail the form to you. You must sign the form and mail to the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters.

### *To vote in California, you must be:*

- At least 18 years old by election day
- A US Citizen
- A California resident
- Not in prison or on parole for a felony
- Not declared mentally incompetent by court action
- Registered at least 15 days before the election

### *ABSENTEE VOTING:*

#### *Request an Absentee Ballot:*

Last day to request an absentee ballot by mail: October 31, 2006

- Complete the Absentee Ballot Request Form on the back of your sample ballot  
Absentee Request Forms (Available 07/01/06)  
English  
Spanish  
Vietnamese  
Chinese  
Tagalog
- Write a letter requesting an Absentee Ballot. Include your name, residence address, mailing address (if different) and your signature. Mail or fax to: Absentee, PO Box 1740, San Jose, CA 95109. Fax: (408) 293-6002.
- If you are in the military and/or are overseas, please go to [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov) for more information and [www.fvap.gov/pubs/onlinefpca.html](http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/onlinefpca.html).

# ANNUAL SOUTH COUNTY GARAGE SALE COMING IN SEPTEMBER



Promote the idea of reuse, conserve landfill space and avoid wasting valuable resources - have a garage sale! Morgan Hill, Gilroy and South Santa Clara County are celebrating their commitment to reducing waste by sponsoring South County Garage Sale Days in September. Morgan Hill garage sales will be on September 16th and 17th.

You provide the garage. You keep the cash. Clean out your closets and empty the attic! We will provide free advertising and free garage sale kits. These kits include tips for a successful sale, inventory sheets and a list of organizations who will accept donations of usable items. (You may want to check with your Home Owners Association, if applicable, to make sure you can have a garage sale.) For more information, contact the City of Morgan Hill Environmental Programs Division at 779-7247 or by email at [andi.borowski@morgan-hill.ca.gov](mailto:andi.borowski@morgan-hill.ca.gov)

TO PARTICIPATE, COMPLETE AND RETURN  
THE APPLICATION AT THE RIGHT BY  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2006

NAME/PHONE (WILL NOT BE LISTED IN AD)

.....

.....

ADDRESS OF GARAGE SALE

.....

.....

.....

DAYS PARTICIPATING (CIRCLE ONE):

Saturday Only

Sunday Only

Saturday and Sunday

ITEMS YOU WILL SELL (CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY):

Antiques    Appliances    Books

Clothes    Furniture    Jewelry

Toys    Other (please list):

.....

## PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT

I agree to operate my garage sale on the day(s) specified above, from 8 AM until 2 PM. I agree to contact the City if I cancel my sale so that my address can be removed from the list of participants. I understand that the deadline for my application/cancellation is Friday, September 1, if my address is to be included in garage sale advertising. I understand and agree that the City makes no guarantee of sales volume or level of advertising or other publicity. Regarding any claims or liabilities of any nature arising from my participation in this program, I hereby waive any claims I or my representatives may have, and further agree to protect, defend and hold harmless the City and its officers, agents, and employees.

SIGNATURE

.....

RETURN THIS APPLICATION TO:

Garage Sale Day

Environmental Programs Division

17555 Peak Avenue

Morgan Hill, CA 95037



YOU CAN ALSO FAX THIS FORM TO 779-7236



# Join now!

## Centennial Recreation Center

171 W. Edmundson Ave, Morgan Hill  
Next to Community Park  
(408) 762-6000

Grand Opening  
October 28, 2006

**52,000 sq. ft. of  
fitness and recreation  
for the whole family**

Become a Charter Member!  
Enjoy these benefits...

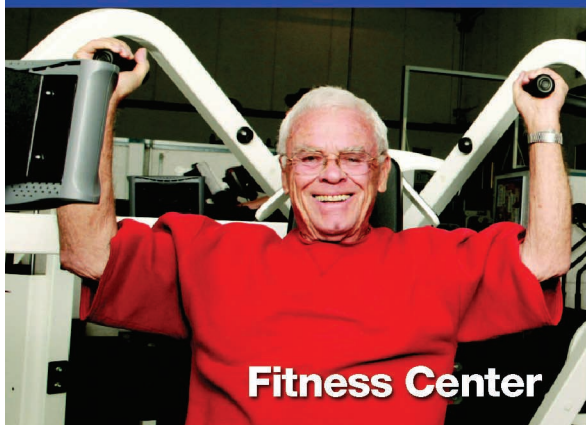
- Early facility usage
- 2 weeks **FREE**  
(offer expires 10/14/06)
- Gift package

Sign-up at the  
Mt. Madonna YMCA

17666 Crest Ave. Morgan Hill, CA 95037  
(Saturdays: 9 am – noon; Weekdays: 8 am – 6 pm)

For more information:  
408-762-6000  
[www.mhcrc.com](http://www.mhcrc.com)

Operated in partnership by the City of Morgan Hill  
and the Mt. Madonna YMCA



City of Morgan Hill  
17555 Peak Avenue  
Morgan Hill, CA 95037

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MORGAN HILL, CA**

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